

REMARKS

The Final Office Action of March 15, 2010, and the Advisory Action of August 30, 2010, have been received and reviewed. Claims 1, 6-11, 22, and 23 stand rejected. This application is to be amended as previously set forth. No new matter has been presented. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Telephone Interview

Applicants appreciate the courtesy extended by Richard M. Ross of the U.S.P.T.O. Office of PCT Legal Administration during the telephone interview of December 21, 2010. Mr. Ross informed the applicants' representative, Alexander T. Stein, that upon his review he could not find a priority claim in International Patent Application No. PCT/EP03/50201 to either of European Patent Application No. 02077953.4, or U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/397,066. Mr. Ross indicated that if the applicants submitted a supplemental amendment that removed recitation of these assertedly missing priority claims, the applicants' petition would be granted. Mr. Ross further indicated that he believed chains of priority were established elsewhere in the application to European Patent Application No. 02077953.4 and U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/397,066, and therefore priority claims to these applications from International Patent Application No. PCT/EP03/50201 were unnecessary.

The applicants believe that the foregoing adequately describes the substance of the interview. If, however, the Office believes more detail to be desirable, the Office is kindly requested to contact the applicants' attorney, and more detail will be provided to the extent available.

Priority

The present application continues to claim priority to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/549,463, filed April 14, 2000, now U.S. Patent 6,855,544 B1; U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/129,452, filed April 15, 1999; PCT International Patent Application No. PCT/EP2003/007690, filed July 15, 2003, designating the United States of America, and published, in English, as International Publication No. WO 2004/009618A2 on January 29, 2004;

U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/397,066, filed July 18, 2002; co-pending International Patent Application No. PCT/EP03/50201, filed May 27, 2003, designating the United States of America; European Patent Application No. 02077953.4, filed July 18, 2002; and U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/397,066, filed July 18, 2002.

Applicants filed a renewed petition for acceptance of unintentionally delayed priority claims in the Office concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination, and an Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114, on September 1, 2010. It is the applicants' understanding following the telephone interview with Richard Ross on December 21, 2010, that the amendment to the Specification, set forth above, will place the applicants' renewed petition in a condition to be granted.

The applicants most respectfully request that the amendments to the Specification set forth in this Amendment be entered. The applicants respectfully submit that these amendments introduce appropriate references to priority documents into the application.

If questions remain after consideration of the foregoing, the Office is kindly requested to contact the applicants' attorney at the address or telephone number given herein.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. T. Stein', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

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